

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This responds to the office action mailed on January 6, 2005. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 7-9, 17 and 17 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10-16 are rejected. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to. Claims 1 and 10 are amended. Claim 2 is cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation “said predetermined value” in lines 7-8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 2-6 are, directly or indirectly, dependent on claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-6 are rejected for carrying the same deficiency as claim 1.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove “said predetermined value” and to add “a maximum output power of said power supply apparatus.” The amendment to claim 1 has sufficient antecedent basis, therefore the Examiner’s rejection is overcome.

The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP409312935A to Fujimoto et al. (Fujimoto) in view of Japanese Patent No. JP404200238A to Okamoto (Okamoto).

As to claim 1 and 10, Fujimoto et al. teach a power supply apparatus connected to a commercial power supply for supplying power to a main unit (load 10), a battery for supplying power to the main unit (battery 4), a controller (control means 22), and the

controller executes an operation when power consumption in the main unit exceeds a predetermined value (abstract).

However, Fujimoto et al. do not expressly teach the operation being a power consumption control operation.

Okamoto teaches a power consumption control equipment for monitoring power consumption, and executing a power consumption control operation when the power consumption is detected to be higher than a preset first value (or threshold) (abstract).

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Fujimoto et al. and Okamoto because Okamoto's power consumption control, when incorporated into Fujimoto et al's system, would have enabled increased efficiency in overall system power management by allowing reduction in power consumption of the overall system.

The present invention controls the power consumption of a system unit in a state while making full use of performance of the power supply apparatus. The present invention is able to perform power management operations (power consumption control function) for reducing the power consumption after exceeding the maximum output power of a power supply apparatus such as an AC adapter when a system configuration of the computer apparatus such as the notebook PC is maximized by connecting to a PC adapter, a USB apparatus and the like, and operating a plurality of programs are simultaneously. (Summary of the invention)

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part "A power supply system for supplying power to a main unit comprising...a controller, wherein said controller executes an operation of power consumption control means for the main unit started upon power consumption in said main unit exceeding a maximum output power of said power supply apparatus." Claim 1 incorporates a portion of cancelled claim 2. The Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position that Fujimoto teaches claim 2, of which a portion is now in claim 1. Specifically, Fujimoto fails to teach or suggest a controller executes an operation of power consumption control means for the main unit started upon power consumption in said main unit exceeding a maximum output power

of said power supply apparatus. Fujimoto recites in the Abstract, “If the power consumption of the load 10 is smaller than a specified value, a part of the AC power from the AC generator 2 is stored in the battery 4. If the power consumption of the load 10 exceeds the specified value, the power stored in the batter 4 is supplied to the load 2.” The Abstract of Fujimoto fails to teach or suggest that the specified value is a maximum output power of said power supply apparatus. Therefore, Fujimoto fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1.

Okamoto fails to remedy the deficiency of Fujimoto because while Okamoto recites in the Abstract, “When the power consumption of the whole communication system is detected to be higher than the preset first value, respective consumed power control equipments 2-4 are instructed to stop...” The Abstract of Okamoto fails to teach or suggest that the preset first value is a maximum output power of said power supply apparatus. Fujimoto and Okamoto, either separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest claim 1.

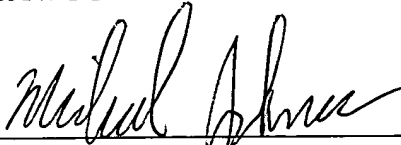
Accordingly, based on the above-mentioned argument, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 3-6 are allowable since they depend from an allowable base claim.

Claim 10 was amended in a manner similar to claim 1, therefore the arguments directed toward claim 1 apply to claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 11-16 are allowable since they depend from an allowable base claim.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date